

Ordnance Experts to Test Powerful New U. S. Rockets

Projectiles Will Reach Height of 100 Miles

Expected to attain a height of 100 miles—in contrast to the maximum of 52 miles reached by the German V-2 fired at London and Belgium during the war—an American rocket is to be demonstrated at the White Sands Proving Ground at Las Cruces, N. M., early in May.

This was revealed yesterday by Col. Byron Rife, commanding officer of the Joliet Arsenal, who declared that the May rocket demonstrations at White Sands are one phase in a new era of rocket development in America. The rocket tests are to be run under direction of the ordnance department.

German research centers were leading the field in the development of controlled missiles at the time of the German surrender, Col. Rife pointed out. Since V-E day, specimens of practically every type of the German rocket have been shipped to the United States.

TOP-NOTCH German scientists were brought over to aid American scientists and army ordnance experts in improving the V-2 rocket weapon used by the Germans. Later developments of rockets are expected to reach heights even beyond the 100 miles visualized for the American projectiles scheduled to be fired in the Las Cruces tests in May.

"Rocket development is progressing well for us," Col. Rife declares. "We are fortunate to have the benefit of 15 years of German research as a background for future rocket development."

While the propellant to be used in the newly-developed U. S. rockets has not been disclosed, an all-American rocket known as the "Wac Corporal" which was developed by the University of California for the ordnance department, used a liquid propellant of hydro-carbon and oxidizer.

THE "WAC CORPORAL," much lighter than the German V-2, recently set an American altitude record of 43 miles. It is to be further developed for obtaining upper-air observations utilized in compiling necessary air-mass information for weather forecasts.

Should the people of the world fail to enforce a peace thru world government and should there be a future war, many experts in the military sciences believe that such a future war would be fought by firing rockets—prob-

ably radio-controlled and bearing atomic bomb warheads—against the enemy.

Such a view was expressed by General of the Army Henry H. Arnold, recently-retired commander of the AAF, in a report made shortly before his retirement. With the use of atomic bombs in radio-controlled guided rocket missiles, experts have pointed out, an attack on the United States might cost the lives of between 30,000,000 and 40,000,000 Americans in a few hours, in addition to wiping out a great part of the nation's productive capacity necessary to carry on a war.